

Dateline ERS

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Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

Current Issues in Japanese Agriculture



www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Japan/CurrentIssues.htm

Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Cotton and Wool
- Feed
- Fruit and Tree Nuts
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Wheat

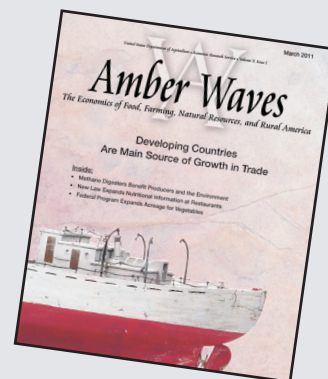
All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Amber Waves

Amber Waves magazine presents the full range of ERS research and analysis, covering food, farming, natural resources, and rural America.

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/



Income Growth in Developing Countries Can Increase U.S. Agricultural Exports

According to USDA long-term projections, continued income growth will make developing countries the main source of the projected increases in global food demand and trade.

Will Calorie Labeling in Restaurants Make a Difference?

A 2010 Federal law will require U.S. chain restaurants to display calorie information on their menus and menu boards. Will consumers use this information to make healthier food choices?

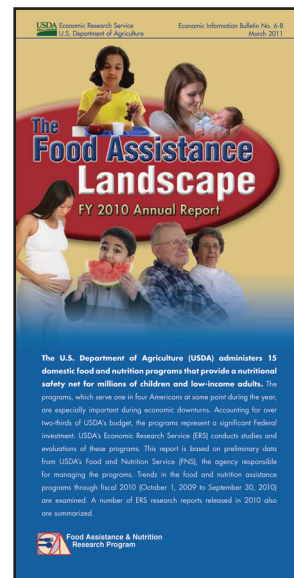
Higher Carbon Prices Could Spur Adoption of Methane Digesters

Currently, methane digesters' costs often exceed their benefits to livestock producers, but higher prices in voluntary, regional, or national carbon markets could make them profitable for many operations.

The Food Assistance Landscape

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB6-8

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers 15 domestic food and nutrition programs that provide a nutritional safety net for millions of children and low-income adults. The programs, which serve one in four Americans at some point during the year, are especially important during economic downturns. Accounting for over two-thirds of USDA's budget, the programs represent a significant Federal investment. *The Food Assistance Landscape, FY 2010* examines trends in the food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal year 2010 and summarizes related ERS research.



How Much Do Fruits and Vegetables Cost?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB71/

Federal dietary guidance advises Americans to consume more vegetables and fruits because most Americans do not consume the recommended quantities or variety. Food prices, along with taste, convenience, income, and awareness of the link between diet and health, shape food choices. We used 2008 Nielsen Homescan data to estimate the average price at retail stores of a pound and an edible cup equivalent (or, for juices, a pint and an edible cup equivalent) of 153 commonly consumed fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. We found that average prices ranged from less than 20 cents per edible cup equivalent to more than \$2 per edible cup equivalent. We also found that, in 2008, an adult on a 2,000- calorie diet could satisfy recommendations for vegetable and fruit consumption in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (amounts and variety) at an average price of \$2 to \$2.50 per day, or approximately 50 cents per edible cup equivalent

Charts of Note

Sign up now to receive Charts of Note via your email:

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Charts of Note are distributed Monday-Friday and highlight charts of interest from ERS research – including a brief description, links to source material, and the ability to “like” it on your Facebook page.



New Research on Climate Change Policy

Carbon Prices and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Dairy and Hog Farms

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB16/

Climate Change Policy and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Livestock Operations

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR111/

Biogas recovery systems collect methane from manure and burn it to generate electricity or heat thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change policies that effectively put a price on greenhouse gas emissions could allow livestock producers to “sell” these reductions to other greenhouse gas emitters who face emissions caps or who voluntarily wish to offset their own emission. Depending on the direction and scope of future climate change legislation, income from carbon off set sales could make methane digesters profitable for many livestock producers. Using modeling, *Carbon Prices and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Dairy and Hog Farms* illustrates how the price of carbon influences this decision and the potential supply of carbon offsets from the livestock sector. *Climate Change Policy and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Livestock Operations* illustrates how dairy and hog operation size, location, and manure management methods, along with electricity and carbon prices, could influence methane digester profits.

How to get more information...

More information about the items featured in DatelineERS can be found on our website: www.ers.usda.gov by going to the web address listed in each article. This newsletter is available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news